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CEREMONY BIDS FAREWELL TO 'IRON SAPPERS' OF 1ST ARMORED DIVISION ENGINEER BRIGADE

By Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

GIESSEN, Germany -- The Engineer Brigade of V Corps' 1st Armored Division -- the last of its kind in the Army -- cased its colors in an inactivation ceremony here April 26.

The event was also a time to honor the brigade for its service since its inception in 1992; service that has taken the engineers from deployment to the Balkans in the 90s to providing support to combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



SPC ALFREDO JIMENEZ JR
Col. James D. Shumway, commander of the Engineer Brigade of V Corps' 1st Armored Division (right), salutes division Commander Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr. during the brigade's inactivation ceremony in Giessen, Germany April 26.

"We are here to honor this incredible engineer combat team as they case their colors for the last time in Germany," said Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson, the 1st Armored Division commander. "This is an important day for this unit, and let me say that the contributions and sacrifices this unit has made for our nation will not end with this ceremony."

"It's a great day to be an 'Iron Sapper'," said Col. James D. Shumway, the engineer brigade commander. "Today we acknowledge the inactivation of the Army's last division engineer brigade."

Among the brigade's achievements are the planning and execution of the crossing of the flooded Sava River in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995; two yearlong combat tours in Baghdad, during which the engineers upgraded force protection, repaired the city's airport, dealt with explosive hazards and improved operating bases, and helping to pave the way for future Army missions in Europe by participating in bilateral training exercises in Romania.

"Every mission this unit has been part of has set the standard for mission accomplishment," Robinson said. "Always performing gallantly in the mission, this unit has proven to be capable of being a force that can be counted upon and carry its weight in any battle."

"I am truly humbled, blessed and honored to have been granted the sacred trust to lead the 'Iron Sappers'," Shumway said. "In its brief but distinguished history, brigade units performed amazing feats in critical times, and whether in harm's way or here at home, the 'Iron Sappers' will continue to excel."

